given in Annexure. (*See* Appendix 189, Annexures No. 25) The estimated number of employees in the small scale sector at All India level for the years 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 are 160.00, 167.20 and 171.58 Lakhs respectively.

The information about the State-wise number of employees working in shops and commercial establishments during 1998 as per the annual returns submitted by various States to Labour Bureau is given in Annexure. (*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 25)

The Employees Provident Funds and Misc. Provision Act, 1952 is applicable to the factories/establishments employing 20 or more persons. The employees drawing wages upto Rs. 5000/- per month are covered under the EPF Scheme. The statement showing number of establishments and the employees covered under the Act State-wise is at Annexure. (*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No 25)

In order to secure compliance of various Labour Laws the enforcement machinery is available both at the Central and State level. The officers appointed as Inspectors under different labour laws inspect the establishments to ensure that the provisions of labour laws are complied with by the employers. Action is taken under the provisions of the law in respect of irregularities detected during the inspections.

ESI Corporations' contribution

836. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in respect of ESI Schemes operated in the State of Karnataka, the ESI Corporations' contribution often falls far short of their due share, year after year;

(b) if so, what is the prescribed share of contribution between the ESI Corporation and the State; and

(c) what is the accumulated excess expenditure incurred by the Government of Karnataka in respect of the ESI Schemes as on December 31, 1999, over and above the State's due share?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The expenditure on medical care under the ESI Scheme is shared by

the ESIC and the State Government in the ratio of 7:1 subject to the ceiling prescribed by the Corporation from time to time in this regard. Based on the audit report the entire contribution of the ESI Corporation as admissible under the ESI Scheme, has been released to the Government of Karnataka for the years up to 1996-97. As regards subsequent years, the Corporation has also released to the State Government "on-account advance" payment of Rs. 21.40 Crore for 1997-98, Rs. 23.84 Crore for 1998-99 and Rs. 21.65 Crore for 1999-2000. The balance payment, if admissible under the Scheme, will be made as and when the audit certificate/clarification is received from the Government of Karnataka.

Growth of Employment

837. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any study to find out impact of structural forms on the growth of employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the growth of employment since 1991; and

(d) if not, steps taken to improve the employment situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Ministry of Labour is not aware of any study which has been conducted to ascertain the impact of structural reforms on the growth of employment.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive employment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions characterised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment. The Ninth Plan recognised the high incidence of unemployment and increasing casualisation of labour and adopted a Nationwide Employment Assurance Scheme.

A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia,